8:Mercier E-5 (ca. 1955) 1960
MS37 Senegal MS37

665 369 cause of this peculiarity, described previously, there were secondary causes, of ethnic, religious, and other natures. Their action contributed to the blurring of lines between the party groups. These facts explain, for example, why the B.D.S., until its recent changes, was unable despite great efforts to change the nature of urban politics. Only the broad action of new factors that were felt considerably beyond the frontiers of Senegal, from 1956 on, brought some change.

These widespread occurrences affected chiefly the two large parties. The other parties, the M.P.S. and U.D.S., which had developed from the schism in the R.D.A., had a quite different nature. They were parties of activists, and in Senegalese political life had only secondary importance. The successes of the R.D.A. elsewhere in West Africa, even during 1956-1957, had only feeble repercussions in Senegal. This fact had many causes, which cannot be studied here. By contrast, the S.F.I.O. and the B.D.S. were tending to become, in terms of number, parties with mass support; their cores were made up as much by "*notables*" and "elected agents" as by activists. The struggle between these two parties continued to dominate the stage, if not in all Senegal, at least in the cities and in certain rural districts.[35] In some cases it took extremely violent forms. 666 665 369 [633] [519] Pre-election riots were common between 1946 and 1956. Even in 1957, rather serious incidents marked the reorganization of the commune of Dakar, before the last municipal elections.[36] For the first time, elements of the B.D.S. (now the Senegalese Populist Bloc, or B.P.S.) won strong representation in the city council, previously dominated without opposition by the S.F.I.O. (now the African Socialist Movement — M.S.A.); an outburst of partisan passions marked

[P. 12A]

/81 cont./

361 millet. The old people assemble in the evening under the [517] large silk-cotton tree that shades the old crumbling mosque of [312] Takhikao. The women chatter while awaiting their turn to draw water at the common well, while the children play in [342] the sand. Gent stands out because of a series of small, low houses with a rectangular base and a roof of corrugated metal, all identical and set along the trail that leads to the marigot [351] /watercourse/ of the mission. A garden and a courtyard, al- [563] ways littered with laundry, characterize each concession. It is the quarter of Portuguese half-breeds called "portugalais" (Plates XI B and XII A).

Diakhao-Nord /North Diakhao/, quiet, airy, arranged [363] according to a strict plan of lots, contrasts with Diakhao-Sud with narrow, winding lanes bordered on all sides by tapades of millet stalks and noisy in the evening. The proximity of [275] the two military bases has made it a place where one amuses [525] himself with all that this includes in the way of drinking [579] shops and more or less clandestine gambling dens. Brawls between drunken men are not rare in these places.

Randoulène, Derrière-la-voie-ferrée, and Bambara, which form a unique quarter, homogeneous in its density and in the heterogeneity of its dwellings, have become established in the immediate vicinity of the railroad repair shops. The [342] huts of planks, mud, or straw stand one against the other along [363] the winding lanes laid out according to the desire of the moment and not without some imagination. These lanes are [373] noisy with people, and even late at night they walk between the small shopkeepers' stalls lighted with smoking candle ends. 351 The dense crowd flows over the edges of the street and enters the interior of the courtyards. The latter, covering barely [463] a few square meters, often serve as a workshop for the [252] weaver, the blacksmith, or the jeweler, and as a kitchen for the housewives of the neighboring huts; it is not rare to see half a dozen millet pounders there, pounding their mortars in rhythm in groups of two or three. This is also the gathering [517] place /82/ /Fig. 4 appears here/ of workers, where, after [524] work, sitting in the sand amidst the dust and the noise, in a

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369 36 [131 487] therefore one of the Old World's closest points to South America (4). Dakar and Natal are about 3,000 kilometers apart.

4. Cape Roxo and the region of Freetown are closer from Cape St. Roque by 250 kilometers (cf. J. Richard Molard, in "La presqu'île du Cap-Vert /The peninsula of Cape Verde/," I.F.A.N., Dakar, p. 10). [113]

These advantages of site and location, however, should not make one forget that the tip of the peninsula of Cape Verde did not have easy access. On the one hand, the shallow depths which border it on its north front caused many shipwrecks, the pillage of which in part supported the riparian populations, and, on the other hand, it did not offer any security for the possible establishment of a settlement because of the very independent character of the Lébou, who were tightly organized in a gerontotheocratic republic under the authority of the "Great Serigne" (5), [133] 369 175 [579]

5. Great Marabout.

after being freed from the bondage of the Damel (6) around 1809.

6. King of Cayor.

Thus, one should not be surprised that the actual occupation of the peninsula by France was very late. For a long time the island of Gorée better satisfied the needs of the early navigators. Discovered by the Portuguese at the same time as Cape Verde, in 1444, the island, located off the southeastern cape of the peninsula, was still uninhabited when the Hollanders appeared at Cape Verde in 1588. In 1617 the latter bought it from the chiefs of the coast "for iron and some nails" (7). This island of less than a

7. Dr. Cariou, note on Gorée in "La [113]